

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## North Korean famine entering sixth year

WASHINGTON (BP) — Five years of famine in North Korea have taken the lives of at least 1 million people and, in the words of Tony Hall, an Ohio congressman and evangelical, left the nation's youngest population "in worse condition than the average African child."

Food shortages have left 62% of children younger than 7 with stunted growth and 16% suffering from acute malnutrition and underweight for their height, according to a report by researchers from the World Food Program, UNICEF and the European Union in November.

It is "a generation irretrievably lost," reflected a front-page story in The New York Times Dec. 10.

North Korea's malnutrition is higher than in any country in East Asia. While the 16% malnutrition figure among children falls short of the 18% in India and Bangladesh, The Times said those countries have some areas of relative plenty, while all of North Korea is to some degree underfed.

As the United States pressed in mid-January for access to a North Korean site suspected of being used to develop nuclear weapons, U.S.-based humanitarian efforts for the country's 23 million people were continuing.

A 6,000-metric-ton vessel, for example, was being prepared for transporting food,



fertilizer, medical supplies, clothing, and other relief aid worth more than \$8 million to Chongjin, North Korea, in an effort coordinated by Amigos Internacionales, an independent organization of Southern Baptists in Texas.

After a five-day visit to North Korea in November, Hall said he believes nearly 3 million North Koreans have died of famine-related causes during the last five years, compared to the U.N. report's estimate of 1 million deaths.

In addition to famine's effects

on the young, Hall said he had seen many adults with "skin darkened with malnutrition." In orphanages supplied by UNICEF, Hall said, "one in three children bore these and other telltale signs of slow starvation."

Jim Goering, director of international programs for World Vision in Washington, said although the 1998 harvest "was a relatively good one" in North Korea, "total grain production was only 3.5 million tons, and the total requirement there is about 5 million tons, so they're going to be dependent on external supplies."

In February, Amigos will launch a new program to send 300,000 metric tons of food to North Korea, which will be monitored by volunteers to see

that it is distributed throughout the country.

"It's been our general observation that the food is going to the most needy in North Korea," said Ken Dupuy, vice-chairman and vice-president of the Amigos Internacionales.

"Certainly we have not been given complete freedom to visit and to monitor the entire country, but where we have been, we have seen no evidence that the food is not going to those people to whom it was designated."

Dupuy stressed although North Koreans know that the Amigos volunteers are Southern Baptists, "We're not permitted, either by our government or by the North Korean government, to go out to be evangelists."

However, he noted, "If we sustain these people, in all probability someone else will come along and tend to the spiritual growth of these people if we open the door or cause the door to be left open to make it available."

Relief efforts by groups like Amigos Internacionales can also help change the North Koreans' attitudes toward American Christians, Dupuy said.

"The children of North Korea are taught almost from the breast that Americans are demons, that they are Satan incarnate, that they are the greatest demons in the world," he said.

"Through our Good Samaritan activities of meeting their physical needs, hopefully we can show them that Americans are not that, and that Christian Americans are not that."

### LifeWay top 10 best sellers

#### HARDBACK

1. Just Like Jesus, Max Lucado (Nelson)
2. Experiencing God Day By Day, Henry Blackaby (B&H)
3. The Weigh Down Diet, Gwen Shamblin (Doubleday)
4. Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Jim Cymbala (Zondervan)
5. Things Pondered, Beth Moore (B&H)
6. Millennium Bug, Michael Hyatt (Nelson)
7. Enter His Gates, Charles Stanley (Nelson)
8. What Is So Amazing About Grace, Philip Yancy (Zondervan)
9. Purpose Driven Church, Rick Warren (Zondervan)
10. More Precious than Silver, Joni Erickson-Tada (Zondervan)

#### PAPERBACK

1. Stories From the Heart, Alice Gray (Multnomah)
2. I Kissed Dating Goodbye, Joshua Harris (Multnomah)
3. Millennium Meltedown, Grant Jeffries (Appalacian)
4. Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby (B&H)
5. Y2K: Millennium Bug, Shaunti Feldham (Multnomah)
6. When I'm On My Knees, Anita Donihue (Barbour)
7. E. M. Bounds on Prayer, E. M. Bounds (Whitaker House)
8. Morning and Evening, Charles Spurgeon (Whitaker House)
9. Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman (Moody)
10. 15 Minutes Alone with God, Emily Barnes (Harvest House)

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

A faulty heater in the nursery results in the burning of First Church, Louise. "We've lost a building but we haven't lost a church," says John Sandlin, trustee. Estimated cost of rebuilding is \$200,000. Maynard Hall is interim pastor.

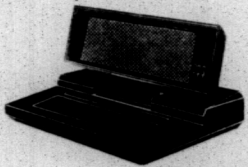
#### 20 years ago

Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven, dedicates their new sanctuary. The colonial-style brick structure is completed at a cost of \$208,630, including furnishings, equipment, and stained glass windows. H.D. Swindoll is pastor.

#### 50 years ago

Ancient Hebrew manuscripts found in Palestine last February, including the complete text of the book of Isaiah, are hailed as "one of the most significant manuscript discoveries of this generation," in a statement released by Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# In search of the perfect role model

**U**nder the suffocating overexposure of Super Bowl Week, the announcement of the latest group of inductees into the National Football League Hall of Fame was for the most part overlooked by the news media and sporting public—overlooked, that is, except for one Lawrence Taylor.

Taylor is remembered as the gifted line-backer for the New York Giants, responsible in large part for that team's winning ways in the late 80's and early 90's. His aggressiveness and uncanny ability to be wherever the football was made him a natural choice for the Hall of Fame on the first ballot.

Unfortunately, Taylor is also remembered as a man who couldn't get his act together off the field. Drug problems, rehabilitation efforts, and other personal setbacks dogged Taylor throughout most of his professional football career and may have contributed to his early retirement from the game.

Taylor's selection to the Hall of Fame raised a lot of concerns among people who believe that such a high-profile organization should not be honoring, before the admiring and aspiring eyes of America's youth, a man with an admitted drug problem.

The Hall of Fame's public reply to the naysayers was, in effect: All that matters to us is what Lawrence Taylor did on the playing field.

That sad message is emblematic of our time, isn't it? A person's private life can be walled off from his public image. Nothing is as important as the ability to entertain in an entertainment-obsessed culture. What's really special about you is what you can do for us, not who you are inside.

Taylor has a lot of company in the failed sports hero category. Who can forget the O.J. Simpson spectacle? The legendary Babe Ruth was known to show up for baseball games after a night of carousing, still

reeking of alcohol and perfume. As Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle lay dying of a liver disease, it was revealed that he was a longtime alcoholic who neglected his family obligations during most of his playing days.

Several months ago Sports Illustrated magazine published a devastating report on the high number of illegitimate children fathered and abandoned by National Basketball Association players.

Atlanta Falcons star Eugene Robinson was arrested in Miami the night before the Super Bowl, after allegedly offering an undercover police officer \$40 for sex along a seedy downtown street. He is married and has two small children.

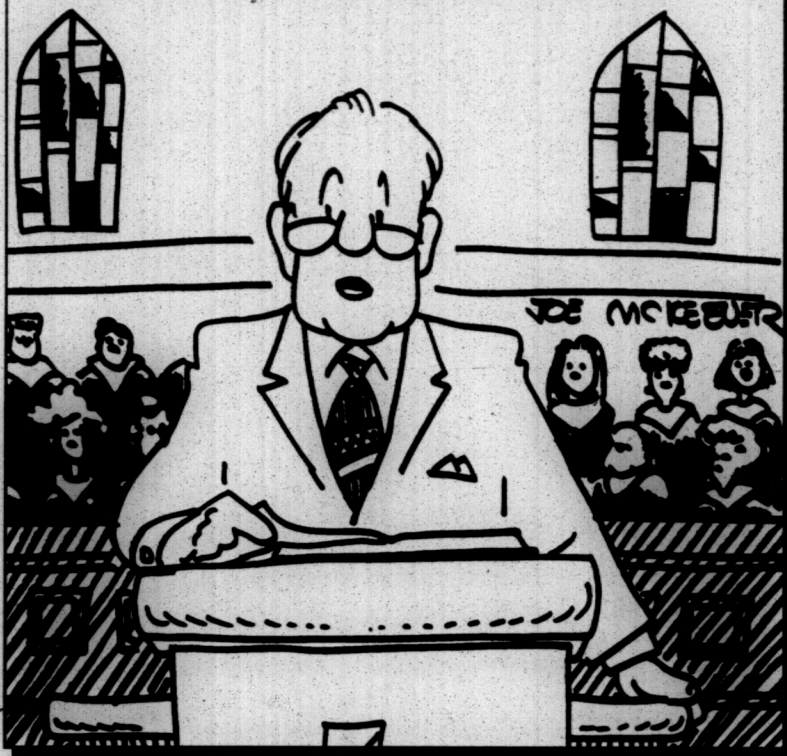
Maybe one day we'll realize we're getting our role models from the wrong places. Just because certain people can catch a football or hit a baseball or dunk a basketball doesn't mean they are perfect, but it still hurts when they fail to meet our expectations.

We daily receive a different message from overweening news/sports media and public relations machines designed to sell stratospherically-priced tickets, but it's the truth that they're only human.

Athletes aren't perfect. Politicians aren't perfect. Pastors aren't perfect. Newspaper editors aren't perfect. None of us are perfect.

There is one perfect role model, though. He is the timeless Author and Finisher of our faith, the sinless Son of God who volunteered to pay a debt he didn't owe

**"PLEASE TURN FROM THE  
BASEBALL STRIKE AND THE  
O.J. TRIAL TO THE FIFTH  
CHAPTER OF MATTHEW!"**



because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

He will always be who he said he was, and he will never fail to deliver what he promised. We know he will never let us down as we recruit new members for his fan club, as he has commissioned us to do.

The hour is late, and he *did* commission us to help bring Mississippi and the world to himself. There is much work left to be done, but as his followers — in light of what he did for us — helping to deliver the Gospel message to a lost world isn't really all that daunting, is it?

After all, we have the perfect role model. Let's get started!

## GUEST OPINION:

### Tackling tough issues

By James Walters, chairman  
Mississippi Baptist  
Christian Action Commission



**I**n the December edition of "Commission" magazine, I read of a woman in China named Sun who accepted Christ. She attended worship services in the early morning and then returned home to recite what she had learned to her friends and family. In nine years, her house church of ten people had grown to 600! Isn't that amazing?

I also read in the same edition that in the rain forests of central Africa an outreach was conducted by missionaries to reach the Pygmy tribes who often live high in the trees.

The "Every Tree Crusade" resulted in three hundred new churches with fifteen thousand members! I asked myself, "Where do we look for the lost? Do we have the courage to go where they are, or the imagination to develop such a creative strategy to reach them?"

My attention was caught by another story, a story about the church Lottie Moon herself attended. Monument Street Church was her church for over thirty years. Since China's Cultural Revolution, many churches were torn down or desecrated. Monument Street Church was reopened in 1988. Those who descend the steps

now and enter the waters of the baptism must register with the government and risk demotion.

Nevertheless, pastor Qin Jai Ye has baptized an average of 300 people each year for the past ten years. Some of us haven't seen 300 baptisms in twenty years! Opportunities are everywhere if we will look for them.

Time and patience can bring great results. The Chinese woman, Sun, grew her house church of ten to six hundred, but

it was no overnight success. Nine years passed.

Have you noticed how impatient we are in the Lord's work? We want results immediately.

I remember hearing a speaker say that if what we did in the church

last year didn't work, and we repeat this year,

it is the height of insanity to expect different results.

Though his point was well taken I couldn't help but wonder: Where does perseverance come in? How long do we do

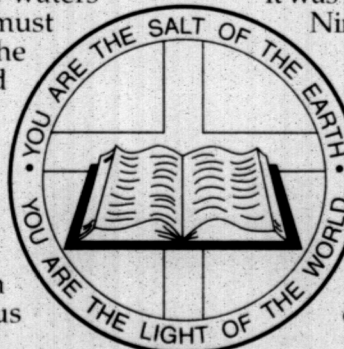
what we're doing before we conclude it doesn't work? We need patience.

The Gospel will overcome all barriers if we will confront the barriers. What stands in our way? Cultural revolutions in communist countries come and go, but the truth of the Gospel has not been suppressed. People in trees are not easy to reach, but God made the trees and he made people who are willing to climb trees for Christ's sake.

As trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, we address some of the toughest issues Mississippi Baptists face. We are blessed with excellent leadership in Paul Jones. Thank God for Beth Holmes.

Pray for us as we lead our state convention in achieving significant spiritual advances against the legal, moral, and social issues which challenge us. Pray for us to have the vision to see the people "in the trees" and develop creative ways to help them. Pray for God to give us patience in what we do. It is a joy and a privilege to serve you.

Walters is pastor of First Church, Carthage.



**Christian Action Sunday**  
February 7, 1999

# Texas leader foresees funds cut to SBC seminaries

ABILENE, Texas (BP) — A \$3 million loss in funding from Texas Baptists to three Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) seminaries could lie ahead, Russell H. Dilday Jr., president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), was quoted as saying Jan. 19 by an Abilene newspaper.

The funding loss, Dilday told the Abilene Reporter-News, could result from a change in the state's procedures for allocating Cooperative Program gifts from local churches. Such a step, which might be proposed at next November's BGCT annual meeting, Dilday said, would give churches broader choices in selecting which SBC entities to support with their funds.

Dilday — the first BGCT leader to be publicly quoted as envisioning funding cuts for SBC agencies — was fired as president of the SBC's Southwestern Seminary in 1994 after nearly 16 years in office.

In the Abilene newspaper article, Dilday cited three seminaries which could face the \$3 million loss: Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Southeastern

Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Southern is the SBC's oldest seminary; Southeastern is headed by the SBC's current president, Paige Patterson. Of Southwestern, Dilday described it as moving in a "fundamentalist" direction, but he said, "it would still receive funds from the state convention," according to the newspaper's paraphrase of Dilday's remarks.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, issued a statement Jan. 25, noting, "It is disappointing in a day when state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention are strengthening their partnership that Dr. Dilday would suggest an approach which erodes the relationship between the BGCT and the Southern Baptist Convention."

"We trust that the vast majority of Texas Southern Baptist churches will exercise wise judgment, and remain loyally committed to the historic missions and theological training of the Southern Baptist Convention," Chapman continued.

"From its inception, the Cooperative Program has been a partnership between the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention for eliciting support from their common constituents, the churches," Chapman said.

"Of course, the churches are always free to give as they wish, but the states and Southern Baptist Convention have a covenant with each other in the Cooperative Program. The agreement is that the state convention will not only promote and receive contributions for its own ministries but also will promote and receive contributions for Southern Baptist Convention ministries."

"Some seem intent on shattering this historic partnership," Chapman said. "What Dr. Dilday envisions is a serious and unnecessary departure from the proven method of the Cooperative Program."

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, said in a statement he believes Texas Baptists "expect Southern Baptist seminaries to adhere to the very highest standards of

theological conviction and to do so without apology. ... [We] are committed to offering the very finest programs in theological education to the churches of Texas and the entire SBC."

Mohler described Dilday's comments as "a case of posturing in an attempt to dissuade Texas Baptists from their historic and longstanding partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention. I am convinced that the vast majority of faithful Texas Baptists cherish and will continue to support the historic partnership we share."

No specific proposal for the shift in funding was reported in the quotes attributed to Dilday, homiletics professor at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas.



THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

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## '99 Ukraine partnership mission trips set

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Volunteers are being sought to participate in eight mission projects in the eastern European country of Ukraine, according to Paul Harrell, director of the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Ukraine is known as the breadbasket of the former Soviet Union. A flat, fertile land about the size of Texas, it is the fifth most populous nation in Europe with 54 million citizens, according to Harrell.

"Mississippi Baptists were invited by Gregory Komendant, the executive director of the Ukraine Baptist Union, to form a partnership for the next three years," Harrell said.

Ukrainian Christians and churches suffered greatly under the former communist regime. Millions of Christians were killed or imprisoned. However, since communism fell in 1990, a window of opportunity has been extended to Baptists to share the Gospel, Harrell pointed out.

Mississippi will focus on the region of Odessa. In consultation with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the senior pastor of the Odessa oblast (political subdivision), Vladimir Shemchishin, eight projects have been selected, Harrell said: evangelism, church starting, construction, children and youth, Vacation Bible School, and a children's camp. (See box at right.)

The cost for each trip is \$1,695 per person. The cost includes airfare from Jackson to Odessa, lodging, meals, visa, transportation, translators, and gratuities. The cost does not include the cost of a passport, which must be obtained before the deadline date of each trip. A deposit of \$200

reserves an airline seat. The balance is due by the deadline date. The suggested size for each group is 10 persons.

Mississippi Baptists are currently involved in three mission partnerships: Ukraine, Maryland/Delaware, and Honduras.

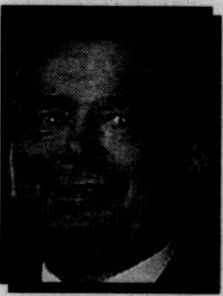
"Partnership missions is a proven strategy which has successfully involved thousands of Southern Baptists in hands-on missions experiences. It is designed to be

church-to-church, pastor-led, and lay-involved," Harrell said.

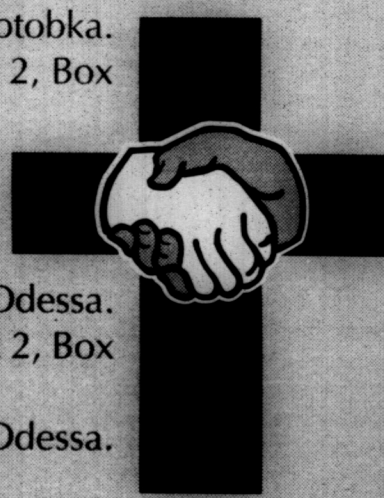
For more information about a specific trip, contact the team leader listed in the box below. For more information related to partnership missions, contact Harrell at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

### Ukraine Mission Projects for 1999

- **May 22-June 2: Construction/evangelism** — Baptist Church in Kotobka. Deadline March 22. Team leader: Brent Barker, Goodwater Church, RR 2, Box 15, Magee, MS 39111-9501. Phone (601) 849-2245.
- **July 2-14: Construction/evangelism** — Second Baptist Church, Odessa. Deadline, May 6. Team leader: Ken Hester, Mantee Church, P. O. Box 161, Mantee, MS 39751-0161. Phone (601) 456-2105.
- **July 17-28: Children and youth ministries/VBS** — City of Odessa. Deadline: May 13. Team leader: Donna Swarts; Goodwater Church, RR 2, Box 15, Magee, MS 39111-9501. Phone (601) 849-2245.
- **July - August: staff for four 10-day children's camps** — City of Odessa. Deadline: May 20. Team leader to be announced.
- **Aug. 5-18: Evangelism/church starting** — City of Balta. Deadline: June 3. Team leader: Randy Von Kanel, First Church, P. O. Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205-0520.
- **Sept. 2-15: Evangelism/church starting** — City of Kotovsk. Deadline: July 1. Team leader: John Perkins, Northwest Association, P. O. Box 381, Hernando, MS 38632-0381. Phone (601) 429-5033.
- **Sept. 16-29: Evangelism/church starting** — City of Odessa. Deadline: July 15. Team leader: Dan Robertson, First Church, 150 D'Evereaux Drive, Natchez, MS 39120-3750. Phone (601) 442-1464.
- **Oct. 7-20: Medical/evangelism/church starting** — Odessa area. Deadline: Aug. 5. Team leader: Mackie Davis, Lebanon Association, P.O. Box 1591, Hattiesburg, MS 39402-1591. Phone (601) 544-4430.



Komendant



# WMU sets \$65K in Second Century grants

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive board awarded \$65,000 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting Jan. 9-13 at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala.

The grants, assigned to both home and international fields, will fund a variety of projects designed to educate and involve women in missions.

The Second Century Fund is a permanent endowment created by WMU during its centennial year in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently, along with 10% of each year's earnings on the principal, which stands at approximately \$1.5 million. The remaining interest is given each year in grants. Since 1988, WMU has awarded \$696,523 in grants.

Of the 31 grants awarded this year, eight went to international projects and 23 were given to support projects in North America.

The international grants were awarded to, with dollar amounts: the women's department of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa, \$5,000; the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, \$5,000; the Thailand Baptist Women's Conference, \$1,000; WMU of Bolivia, \$2,500; the Seminary of Christian Education in Brazil, \$1,000; the School of Missions in Uruguay, \$1,000; the National Women's and Sunbeam Camp in Venezuela, \$1,000; and the BWA women's department's leadership conference in Melbourne, Australia, \$2,500.

Twenty-one of the grants will provide training and/or materials for WMU organizations affiliated with WMU, SBC. Several of the grants will benefit leadership from a variety of language/ethnic congregations.

The WMU organizations receiving the grants, by state or province and dollar amounts, are: Arizona, \$3,000; California, \$1,500; Canada, \$2,000; Colorado, \$2,500;

the Dakotas, \$4,000; Hawaii, \$4,000; Michigan, \$1,500; Minnesota-Wisconsin, \$2,500; Montana, \$2,000; Nevada, \$2,500; New England, \$3,000; New Mexico, \$2,000; Ohio, \$3,000; Pennsylvania-South Jersey, \$2,500; Puerto Rico, \$1,000; West Virginia, \$2,000; and Wyoming, \$1,200.

Two special projects in North America also received grants. The Native American LINK, Inc., received a \$1,000 grant for a retreat for Native American Baptist women. The Arkansas WMU was awarded a \$4,800 grant to help fund the MK Re-entry Retreat. The annual event is for missionary kids who are returning to the United States to enter college and is sponsored by state WMU organizations, WMU, SBC, and the International Mission Board.

For information on the Second Century Fund, write: Second Century Fund, WMU Foundation, P.O. Box 11346, Birmingham, AL 35202-1346; phone (205) 408-5525; e-mail, [wmufoundation.wmu.org](mailto:wmufoundation.wmu.org)

## WMU bylaw change proposed

In the annual meeting of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Clinton on March 15-16, WMU will vote on a proposed change in Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws, changing the words "Foreign Missions" to "International Missions" and "Home Missions" to "North American Missions."

For more information, contact WMU at PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

# WMU executive board approves long-range plan

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive board approved the report of a long-range planning committee during its Jan. 9-13 meeting, which, among other things, called for adopting the Missions Innovators program piloted in 1998 and expanding work with ethnic and language groups.

The annual meeting was held at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala. Nearly 250 people attended the meeting, including executive board members, state WMU staffers, national WMU staffers, staff from the International and North American mission boards, and a team of international missionaries.

The committee, known as the Blueprint for the 21st Century Committee, was appointed by national WMU President Wanda Lee in February 1998.

Three recommendations called for Lee to name a committee to do further study. Topics to be addressed by the committees include revising WMU's curriculum and product development process; developing relationships and partnerships with international Baptist women's groups; and developing a more adequate system of measuring WMU involvement.

Another recommendation calls for piloting an intentional interim program in partnership with conventions without state WMU leadership. The other two recommendations relate to the organization's marketing strategy and research and development process.

The Missions Innovators recommendation calls on national WMU to develop and implement an ongoing Missions Innovators training program. The training will equip individuals to work with churches in evaluating their missions involvement and dis-

covering new ways to be on mission with God.

WMU, SBC, piloted Missions Innovators during 1998 in cooperation with state Baptist conventions and WMU organizations in Alabama, Texas, and Virginia.

A national WMU staff member was assigned to each state where she worked with the leadership to develop and implement a plan to help churches increase their missions involvement. In each state, the Missions Innovator worked with individual churches and associations of varying size and context.

Sheryl Churchill was assigned to Virginia. She said building relationships with church members and staff is the key component of Missions Innovators.

"By building these relationships, it gave me the opportunity to hear the heart stories of why people see missions as important to their lives," she said. "It also opened the door to seeing that there are churches with a strong missions tradition and those who are beginning to create their own missions traditions."

Sylvia DeLoach was assigned to Texas and will continue to work with the project in 1999. Churchill has returned to national WMU staff, and Kathy Burns, the staff member assigned to Alabama, has accepted a position with the Mississippi WMU.

DeLoach said the most exciting aspect of the Texas field test

was the response of church leaders to the challenge "to learn to listen and think in new ways."

In its recommendation on expanding work with ethnic and language churches, the long-range planning committee commended national WMU staff on its current work in this area, but said that efforts "must become a higher priority."

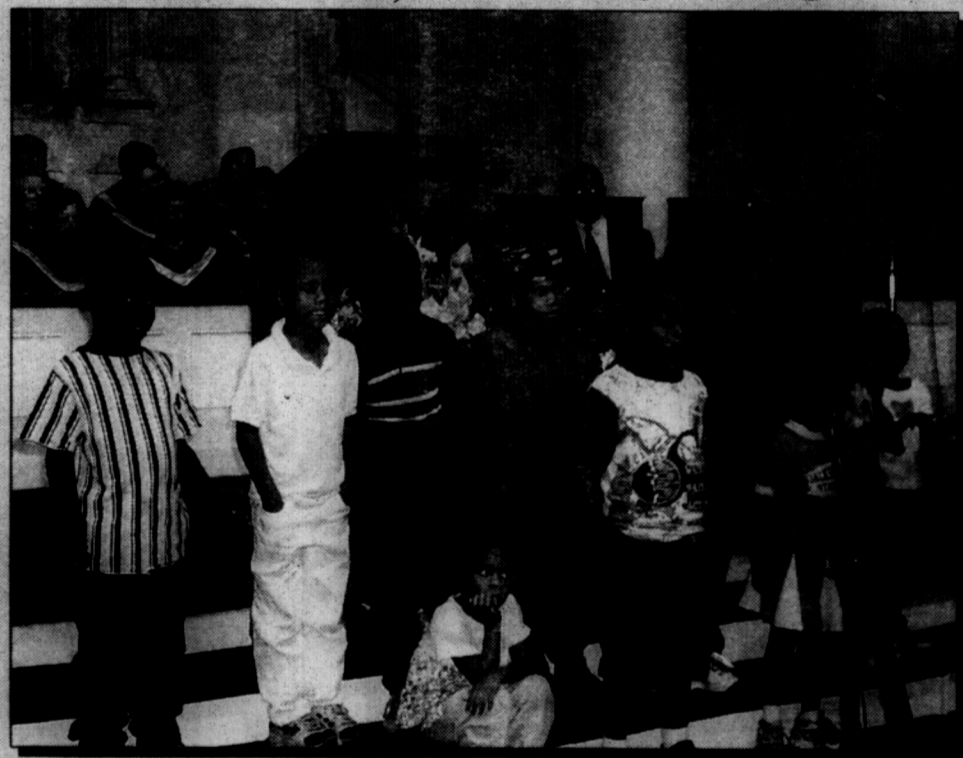
With language and ethnic churches representing the fastest-growing segment in SBC life, the committee said WMU must "accelerate ethnic leadership development and partner with those leaders in the creation of contextually appropriate material."

Rose Zamora, WMU ministry consultant with language audiences, said the introduction and approval of the recommendation ethnic leadership development "is an answer to prayer."

"It is wonderful to know that WMU will have an impact in our world as we seek to encourage ethnics and African Americans to be radically involved in the mission of God," she said.

"It is so fulfilling to see strides being made to continue including ethnic and African-American work as part of WMU's service to further God's kingdom."

## Offering thanksgiving



Members of the Calvary Bible Club First Grade Group under the direction of Jan Halford perform during a special Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 22, 1998, in the sanctuary of Calvary Church, Jackson. Among the participants were James Street (seated at back, right), pastor of Calvary Church; Elder James E. Turner Sr. (seated at back, second from right), of Mt. Bethel Church of Christ Holiness in Jackson; and the Calvary Church Sanctuary Choir (seated at back, left). Luther Ott (not pictured), director of The Community Stewpot in Jackson, also participated. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## WHAT IS NO MORE

I sat at a railroad crossing recently and was reminded of what is no more.

The train was moving slowly and when the end finally passed by, I saw that on the last car there was a blinking red light that indicated it was the final car.

There was no caboose! For over a decade now, trains in general have been cabooseless; instead there is a string of cars that end with a blinking red light that I believe is called, "The End of the Train Warning Device."

Caboosees are history. Do you remember those red cars of years gone by? I can remember climbing aboard and looking around in some of those cars.

Men lived in those traveling compartments. They slept there, fixed and ate their food there, did their work on board the caboose, and now those cars are only museum pieces.

They have been replaced by the "The End of the Train Warning Device." Seems rather sad to me, because wrapped up in the caboose were some of our thoughts and emotions that meant a great deal to our language and culture.

I can remember my dad speaking of my younger brother, the fifth boy to be born in our family, as the caboose. We all knew what that meant.

Today I suppose he would



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

be referred to as the "The End of the Train Warning Device." It just doesn't sound the same!

When I think about those songs referring to the caboose, like the "Little Red Caboose," I doubt that the most gifted songwriter could pour the meaning and emotion into the song using the phrase, "The Little Blinking Red End of the Train Device."

That is the way life is — filled with changes, and some things passing off the scene.

It caused me to think about our denominational life and the things that are no more:

- ◆ The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission (consolidated with the North American Mission Board).

- ◆ The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (defunct).

- ◆ The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board).

- ◆ The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board).

- ◆ The Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention).

- ◆ The Radio and Television Commission (consolidated with the North American Mission Board).

These agencies are now only to be found in historical documents. Actually — that is not altogether true, for some of us are still in transition and find ourselves lapsing into the use of old caboose terms.

We find it difficult to say International Mission Board, or North American Mission Board, or Lifeway. Only a few months ago I was talking to a woman who was referring to Discipleship Training and she called it BYPU. Some of us are slow in taking hold of new ideas.

The passing of the caboose is not altogether a bad thing. The train industry found it to be far more efficient, equally effective, and easier to manage "The End of the Train Warning Device."

While the things that are not, and the new things that are, pose problems for us in adjustment, it can often be good. Even some of the changes in Baptist life are not as bad as our emotions might feel they are.

I think about how in William Carey's day they started a mission organization and named it the "Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to the Heathen." Try putting that on the letterhead!

When we go through the transition of doing away with the caboose, it might not be bad if we looked for the good. Sometimes it is not readily apparent and often it takes some adjusting to discover the possibilities that are a part of new concepts.

More important than just bemoaning what is no more is for us to focus on the things that still are.

In Baptist life we continue to magnify the truth that Jesus is Lord. We continue to broaden our vision to share his life and light — his saving power to a needy world.

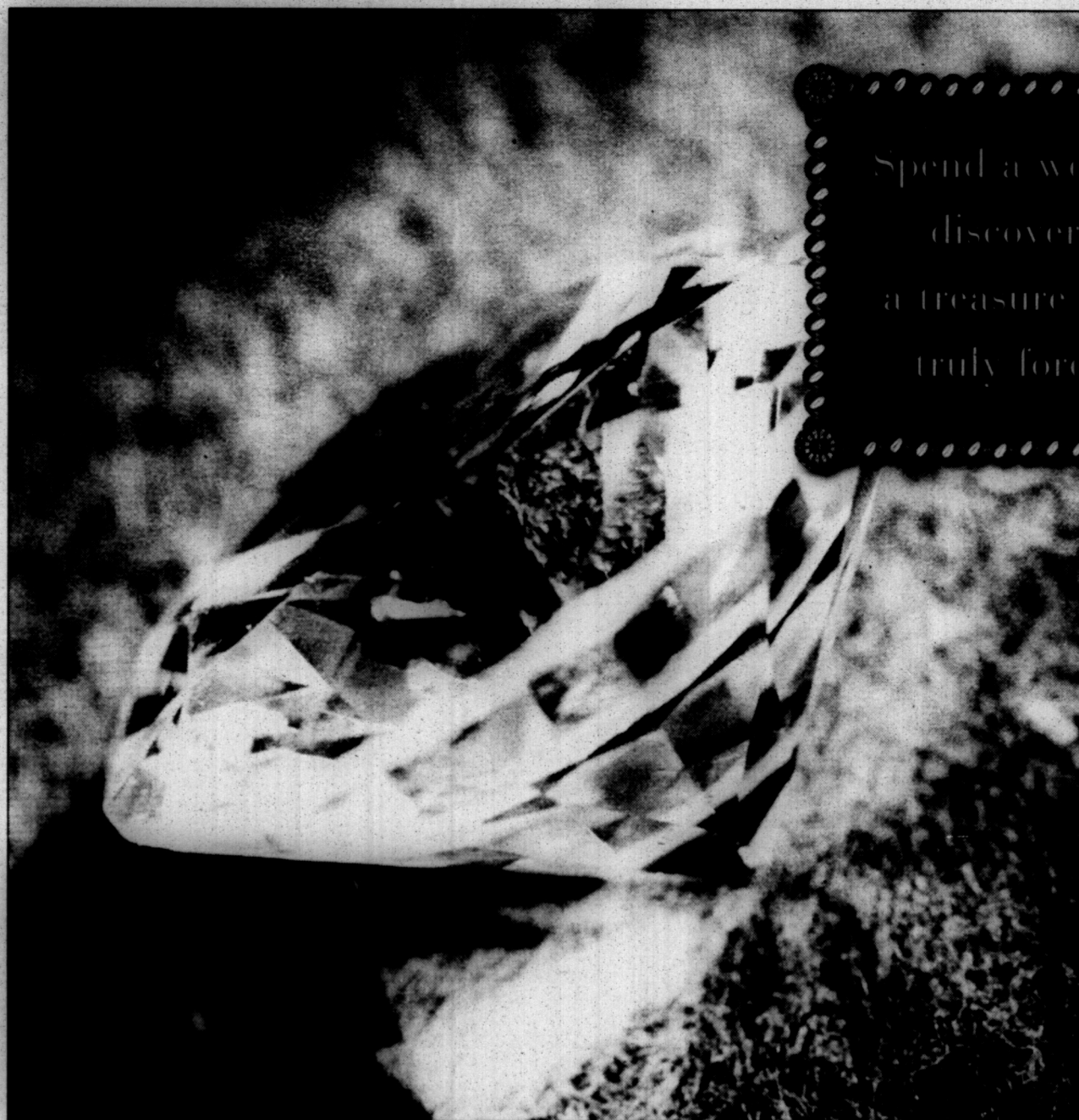
We continue to not only build churches, but build up people in the Lord.

I will continue to miss the caboose and some other things in life, but it will not deter my desire nor my drive to be doing what the Lord wants me to be doing right now and what he wants me to do to the best of my ability this day.

## Missionaries' deaths in India condemned

WASHINGTON (BP) — Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, has condemned the religious bigotry that caused the death of Australian Baptist missionary Graham Staines and his two sons in the eastern state of Orissa, India, on Jan. 23.

"This is the latest tragic death caused by religious intolerance and fanaticism, not only in India, but worldwide," Lotz said, noting Christians in the Chin State of Myanmar have been persecuted by Buddhist military leaders and Christians in the south of Sudan have been attacked and brutally killed by Muslims in the north, who also kidnap the Christians' children and force them into slavery.



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Beth Moore



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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Moore and Woodard

**Morgan City Church, Morgan City,** held deacon installation service for Sid Woodard on Nov. 22. Pictured (from left) are Robert M. Moore, pastor, and Woodard.

**Marion P. Busch**, a native of Greenville, has recently begun his fourth term as a member of the Board of Visitors at Charleston Southern University (CSU), Charleston, S.C. Members of the board are select business and community leaders interested in furthering CSU's mission of "promoting academic excellence in a Christian environment."

**Shirl Smith** was recently ordained to the ministry at Lorena Church, Smith County. He has been called to be pastor



Smith and Anderson

at Rock Creek Church, Newton County. Tommy Anderson, pastor, (pictured at left) presented a Bible to Smith.



**L. B. and Geraldine Smith** donated an Allen Organ to Sardis Church, Smith County, on Dec. 20.

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(*I have signed.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



**John Jones** was ordained to the ministry at First Church, Vancleave, on Nov. 29. Pictured (from left) are Greg Potts, pastor; Jones, minister of students; Joe McKeever, First Church, Kenner, La.; Gordon Alford, minister of music; and Jeffrey N. Smith, minister of education.

## Copiah, Lincoln Assns. set libraries workshop

Copiah and Lincoln Associations will hold a workshop for church and home School Librarians on Feb. 20 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Motel on Brookway Boulevard in Brookhaven, according to the Department of Broadcast Services of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Peggy Tacon, Media Library Director at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., will teach "Care and Repair of Books" and "Church Media Library Ministry." The conference fee is \$5 per person. This includes lunch and snacks.

Materials to bring to the conference are: Care and Repair of Books by Floyd Simpson, and The Church Media Library Ministry by Dennis Conniff. Also, participants should bring one book to repair.

Reservations must be mailed to Lincoln Association, Attention: Media Library, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39601-0363. Deadline for reservations is Feb. 18.

For more information, contact Deborah Quinly, at (601) 894-2731 — office; (601) 894-4001 — home; or Agatha Sandidge at (601) 833-8111 — office; or (601) 833-5162 — home.

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### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**THE JASPER COUNTY MS Baptist Association** is in great need of a part-time director of missions. Persons interested in serving the Lord in this capacity may send resumes to Rev. William Spencer, PO Box 16, Hickory, MS 39332, or phone 601-646-9494 after 4 p.m. Deadline for receiving applications is February 11.

**FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH.** Please send resumes to Walker Hill Baptist Church Search Committee, 1110 Wade Patrick Rd., Brandon, MS 39042. (601) 825-6210.

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## Revival dates

**First, Lake:** Feb. 11-13; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Ray Quimby, music.

## GOD IS NOT PLEASED

Editor:

When I think of how we preachers and directors of missions (DOM) complain, this week I had to just stop and ask God to forgive me. We preach and complain to our church members and committee members about not showing up for church and committee meetings. We feel like these are the things that will help them.

Well, my eyes were opened Jan. 18-19 at our 1999 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference, which was great. Our convention evangelism department works hard to put on a conference that will help us in our ministry, and we don't show up for this help. Now I know some cannot come, but also many others can. We do what we want to do. We know about this a year ahead of time. What's wrong with us?

As I attended our evangelism conference this year, I was

hurt as I looked around and saw the crowd had fallen off. This was when I realized we have no right to jump on our church members and committee members when we will not attend the place where we can get help. I just cannot believe God is pleased with the way we are neglecting his help. This letter is out of much prayer and concern. What's wrong with us? Is God's business not as important as it used to be? We need to examine ourselves and take care of the problem.

Bobby Cobb, DOM  
Tishomingo Association  
Tishomingo

## PRAY FOR ILL. MINISTRY

Editor:

The First Baptist Chapel located in Stockton, Ill., is the only Southern Baptist work in the area beginning with the Mississippi River and stretching

85 miles to Rockford, Ill., and from Sterling, Ill., to Madison, Wis., a distance of about 100 miles. Our immediate church field includes six villages with a combined population of 6,000 people. The total population of the area is 40,000. We have 10 actual members and an average of 30 attending Sunday morning worship with a core group of 40 who attend sometimes. We have a great opportunity for evangelism and church planting. Please pray for us.

Jimmy Coleman, pastor  
Stockton, Ill.

## CAN'T OUST CHURCH

Editor:

In your Jan. 14 issue I read with some concern the news of a Missouri association's dictatorial ousting of a "charismatic" church. Recent trends in Southern Baptist polity are moving closer to this form of authoritarian rule and farther from our

historical "soul competency" form of church organization.

William Cooke Boone, in his book, *What We Believe*, published by the Sunday School Board in 1936 reminds us that: "(E)very local church is a law itself, having no authority but that of Christ...There is no outside authority that can dictate to a church what to do. There is no governing board, or conference...or association whatever over a church. We do have associations...but these bodies are purely voluntary and advisory. No church has to abide by their recommendation or carry out their plans, unless it so desires. These outside bodies cannot compel the local church to work with them (nor believe strictly what they believe); they have no right to censure it if it decides not to do so."

I can appreciate the Missouri Baptist association's concern, but if we are to be true to ourselves, they nor any other association possesses the authority to rule or oust a Baptist church that is there purely in a voluntary capacity. They should instead encourage the church to voluntarily withdraw fellowship, but the power resides strictly with the members of that local church.

Simply, they may possess the inclination, but they possess neither the authority nor precedent to act in such an impertinent manner.

Paul L. Smith, pastor  
Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill

## TAKE Y2K SERIOUSLY

Editor:

Your (Jan. 7) editorial about the new millennium seems to make light of the seriousness of this Y2K (Year 2000) problem. This problem is based on the computers of the entire world malfunctioning, or at worse not functioning at all. This could be a serious widespread problem.

Scientists, programmers, computer specialists, and a long list of other respectable people including many Christians have addressed this as a real potential disaster. Even our President mentioned it in his State of the Union Address.

There are also lots of parables given by Christ to advise us and tell us what to do. Yes I believe God will protect and care for true Christians during these times, but we are also warned not to be like the slug-gard. We dare not make light of what God's Holy Book tells us.

Read your Bible, Christians, and decide for yourselves what God says.

Eunice Williamson  
Forest

# Mississippi couple appointed by IMB

Charles L. (Chuck) Quarles and Julie C. Chesser Quarles were among 28 people appointed by the International Mission Board Jan. 26 during a service at First Church in Houston, Texas.

The Quarleses will live in Romania. Since the revolution in 1989 in Romania, the Baptist convention has been able to start more than 500 new churches.

He will teach at a seminary and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1996 he has been associate professor of New Testament and Greek at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Ky. They are members of First Church in Pineville.



The Quarleses

Born in Tallahassee, Fla., Chuck Quarles is the son of Chester and Dot Quarles of Oxford.

While growing up he also lived in Oxford, Clinton,

and Jackson. He considers Oxford his hometown and Tula Church there and Hickory

Ridge Church in Memphis his home churches.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi and the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Mid-America Seminary in Germantown, Tenn.

He was senior pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, pastor of Rossville (Tenn.) Church, and Concord Church in Bruce.

Born in Stuttgart, Ark., Julie Quarles is the daughter of Bob and Marty Chesser of Olive Branch. She grew up in Biscoe, Ark., and considers Hickory Ridge Church her home church. Rossville Church, First Church in Biscoe, and Broadmoor Church in Brinkley, Ark., also were influential in her Christian growth.

She received the associate of arts degree from Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) in Walnut Ridge, Ark. She also attended Crichton College in Memphis.

The Quarleses have three children: Rachael Erin, born in 1991; Hannah Ellen, 1993; and Joshua David, 1997.

## The Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation, serving Christ and Mississippi Baptists since 1943 by providing many avenues for Christians to give to the Lord's work in Mississippi and around the world.

The Foundation promotes estate stewardship by offering three general seminars: The Will Seminar, Investment Seminar, and Financial Gifts Seminar. Each seminar is designed to fit into the time allotted during discipleship training or perhaps a group luncheon. To schedule one or all of the free seminars for your church, please call Hal Fisher or Jane Newell of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**First graders at First Church, Jackson,** collected quarters during December and at the International Mission Banquet on Dec. 4. They collected over 1,000 quarters and had a total collection of over \$1,700. The boys are pictured lining up their quarters on tape for display at the banquet. They are (seated, from left) David Lewis, Steven Calhoun, Samuel Davidson, Blake Scott, Neal McMillan, Clayton Waller, Weston Wallace; (standing) Phillip Duckworth, Kody Gautier, Wesley Caraway, and Cody McCain. Teachers are Charlotte and Ed Scott and Charlotte and Bill Waller Jr.

**Calvary Church, New Augusta,** will host Delores Manning and Glory Road Ministries at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6. For more information call (601) 964-8343 (8-4 daily).

**Baptist Health Systems** will sponsor a seminar on heart health for seniors at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is requested by calling the Baptist Health Line at (800) 948-6262.

**Lebanon Association** is sponsoring a one-day Evangelism Rally, which will culminate two weeks of simultaneous revivals in 17 churches. The event will take place Feb. 15 at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. Activities will include coffee at 8:30 a.m.; preaching and music will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m.; lunch break from 12 noon-1:30 p.m. Revivals being held at the following churches are: Calvary, Petal, Feb. 14-17; Carterville, Petal, Feb. 21; First, Hattiesburg, Feb. 14; Green's Creek, Petal, Feb. 14; Lynn Ray Road, Petal, Feb. 14-17; Macedonia, Petal, Feb. 14-17; Mars Hill, Petal, Feb. 21-24; Maybank, Hattiesburg, Feb. 14; Nineteenth Avenue, Hattiesburg, Feb. 7-10; Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg, Feb. 14; Sunrise, Petal, Feb. 14; Temple, Hattiesburg, Feb. 14; Temple, Petal, Feb. 14; Trinity, Petal, Feb. 12-14; and Vision, Petal, Feb. 7. For more information, call the association office at (601) 261-2771.

**Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg,** held a "Pantry Party for the Parsonage" in honor of its new pastor, John Cockrell. Pictured with Cockrell is his wife Pam.



The Cockrells

**Carroll Roberson** will be in concert at First Church, Ovett, on Feb. 7. He will have charge of both services for the day. Roberson will bring the message and music at 10:45 a.m. and concert in the 6 p.m. service.

**Harmony Church, Crystal Springs,** will present the drama "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames," Feb. 14-16 at 7 p.m. each evening. For tickets, information, and group reservations call the church office at (601) 892-1121.

**Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland,** will present the Mississippi College (MC) Chamber Choir in concert on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. The choir is under the direction of James Richard Joiner. The concert will include selections from the master composers as well as arrangements of spirituals and hymns. The Chamber Choir is an a cappella ensemble of 35 voices chosen by

audition from singers in the Savell is pastor. Raymond A. choral program at MC. Carl Ball is minister of music.



**East Central Mississippi Directors of Missions (DOM) Fellowship** was recently organized at the Kemper Association office in DeKalb. DOMs from areas 4 and 6 were invited to attend the organizational meeting of this fellowship. The purpose of this fellowship is to share concerns and prayer requests, exchange ideas of ministry, and get better acquainted with one another. The next meeting will be March 18 at the Attala Association office in Kosciusko. DOMs who attended the first meeting in DeKalb included (from left) Allen Mapp, Noxubee Association; Wayne Edwards, Lauderdale Association; Mike Smith, Neshoba Association; Bobby Waggoner, Attala Association; Paul Blanchard, Winston Association; Grady Crowell, Clarke Association; and Tim Horton, Kemper Association.

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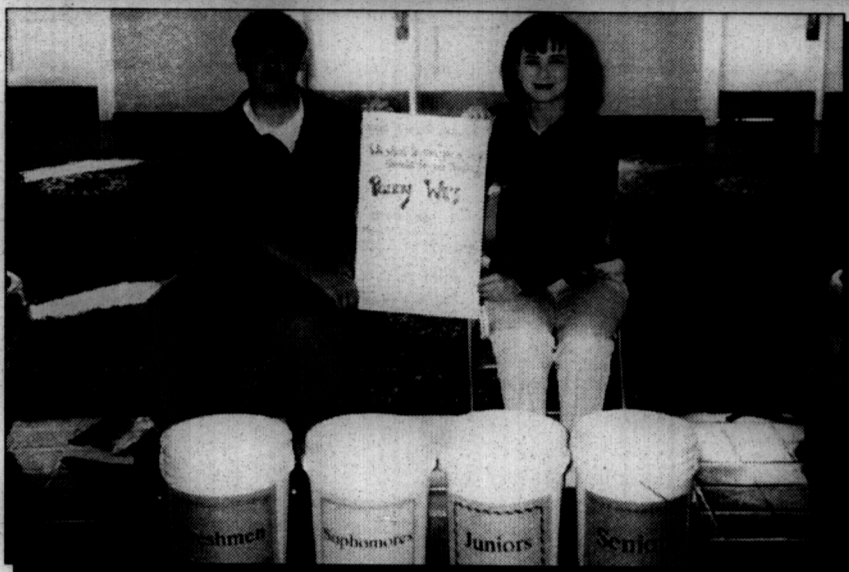
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# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



**Browning and Dunlap**

**Todd Browning**, Blue Mountain College ministerial student, and **Elizabeth Dunlap**, president of the Baptist Student Union, preside over the summer missions fundraiser, "Penny Wars," outside the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium.

**Mississippi College (MC)** Christian Studies and Philosophy professor Harold Bryson has written several new publications. Bryson has written four sermons in "The Abington Preaching Annual 1998." They were edited by Michael Diduit. Bryson is also responsible for writing the devotions for week 30 in "God's Man: A Daily Devotional Guide to Christlike Character," edited by Don Aycock. In addition to teaching

at MC, Bryson is the director of Mississippi College's Institute for Christian Leadership.

**The Department of Music at MC** will present a concert featuring the songs of James Sclater on Feb. 9 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Hall. Sclater has been a member of the MC faculty since 1970. For more information, call (601) 925-3934.

**Artist Mark Millet** of Jackson will display a retrospective collection of his work, Jan. 15-Feb. 24, at MC in the Samuel Marshall Gore Gallery. The collection will feature 25 of Millet's limited edition paintings of famous Mississippi landmarks and scenes. Gore Gallery is opened Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call (601) 925-3290.

**William Carey College (WCC)** Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed second overall at the McNeese State University Tournament held recently. WCC also placed second in individual sweepstakes. Students receiving awards were Chris Smith, Petal; Melanie Grimes, Hattiesburg;

Jason Ruiz, Gulfport; Ron Durbin, Laurel; Mandy Trammell, Florence; Matthew Smith, McComb; Brian Lucas, Petal; Emanuel Buckley, Hattiesburg; Mandy Mozingo, Poplarville; Katherine Rainey, Hattiesburg; Josh Hewitt, Tupelo; and Danny Panter, Florence.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Trinity Church, Petal**, has called Richard Steven Johnson as pastor effective Oct. 11. He received his education at New Orleans Seminary. Johnson previously served as minister to students at First Church, Batesville.



**Johnson**

**Charles Scrivener** began his ministry as associate pastor in education and outreach at

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, on Jan. 1. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. Scrivener previously served First Church, Melbourne, Fla. Hal Kitchings is pastor of Morrison Heights Church.

**Bethlehem Church, Laurel**, has called Cary G. Kimbrell as pastor effective Jan. 1. Kimbrell, a native of Baton Rouge, La., is a graduate of LSU and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Peniel Church, West Monroe, La.



**Kimbrell**

## LOTTIE MOON GOALS REACHED

**First Church, Belzoni**, recently met its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$10,000. The "Lottie Moon Tree" held 32 candles with each candle representing \$312.50. Pictured (from left) are Ruby Davis, Marie Prewitt, Maudie Thronton, June Lea, and

Grant Arinder, pastor.

**Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln Association**, exceeded its All the Way in One Day goal of \$5,000 by giving \$5,434.30. Total amount given to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$6,425.02.



**First Church, Belzoni**

## Correction

At the Jan 17, 2000, Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference a mass choir and orchestra will present the musical "God for Us" at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

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**Danny Akin**

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## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Live responsibly

Romans 13:1-14

By Carl M. White

Timely, to say the least, is the content of this lesson. As the Senate impeachment trial of President Clinton continues, Christians across Mississippi are struggling over how to deal with a national leader, also a fellow Baptist, who has demonstrated such reprehensible behavior. Some want to condemn him in the strongest of terms. Others call for a more reserved response.

No matter your political allegiances or feelings regarding the current occupant of the White House, as followers of Christ we are called upon to face life with a love that is without hypocrisy, while abhorring evil and clinging to good (Rom. 9:12). This

presents a dilemma in the present circumstances. How do we act responsibly as believers in this present crisis?

**Respect government (vv. 1-3).** The level of disgust and the lack of respect for government is at an all time high. Yet, Paul admonishes us to give due respect to our government, and he gives a theological reason why. God has ordained it.

The framers of our constitution worked from the premise that the right to govern was derived from the people themselves. The Bible says it goes beyond the wishes and whims of the populace to God himself.

This statement is even more

incredible when you consider the context in which it was written. The Roman government was a far cry from the modern democracies of today. Human rights and freedoms as we know them were practically nonexistent. Yet, the Word of God recognizes that one of the prime

functions of all government is to maintain a level of peace and order in society. Even the worst of governments do this to some degree or another.

While over the centuries there have been times when Christian people have felt that they must oppose immoral regimes, we are a far cry from that today. Even with our President's obvious sins, God calls upon us to respect our government, not because of the government itself, but because of the divine mandate he has given it to maintain peace and

order. Failure to respect what God has commanded us to respect is failing to respect God.

**Love others (vv. 8-10).** The reason for this mandate lies in an even deeper theological insight. Love requires it, and God is love. Although the overwhelming majority of us keep the basic commandments to not commit adultery, murder, steal, or covet, just keeping the letter of the law is inadequate. The spirit behind the law is the Spirit of God himself, and that is the spirit of perfect love. When we love our neighbor, we fulfill the law of God. When we do not love our neighbor, even though we are not murdering him, we are failing the spirit of the one who saved us.

Do you love your president? Yes, he has done some bad things. Even if you believe he should be removed from office, do you love him? Paul reminds us in Rom. 12:21, "Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."

**Live honorably (vv. 11-14).** The result of a life dedicated to the love commandment is honor. This is the one element that seems to be missing on all sides of the current political situation. Paul admonishes us to, "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." This means, leaving the "deeds of darkness" and wearing the "armor of light."

Light and darkness is used frequently in the Word of God to contrast the ways of the world as opposed to the honorable, love-filled ways of the Lord. Love does not mean accepting the rule of darkness. Nor does it mean we can use the tools of the darkness in our combat. There is no more powerful, nor honorable, weapon than love. When we enter the fray armed with the love of God, we fight with honor, uphold our Lord's honor, and the results will be clothed in honor.

*White is a member of First Church, Clinton.*

## LIFE AND WORK

### Jesus' authority to call disciples

Mark 1:1-13

By Hugh Plunkett

People question, resist, or reject authority in all kinds — religious, governmental, legal, occupational, and parental. If we are all honest with ourselves, we have found this to be true in our own lives. Many years ago when I was a young and inexperienced music and youth minister, three young men came to my office and announced they were leaving town. They were tired of everyone telling them what to do and how to live their lives. So, they left town and joined the army. They came back with a different perspective on authority.

Jesus' authority is authentic; it is inherent and self-validating. He has authority because

of who he is and because of his position as God's unique Son. People who accept his authority are transformed and are given power for living.

**Authority as the Christ, God's Son (v. 1).** The opening verse of Mark's Gospel gives the thrust of the entire book. His purpose was to present Jesus as the Messiah, "the Son of God." Jesus' deity is a major emphasis in Mark. He uses the word "beginning" to mean the start of the good news concerning Jesus that began with John the Baptist's coming on the scene in the wilderness. The same word is found in Genesis 1:1 and in Hosea 1:2. Jesus as the Son of God is emphasized repeatedly

throughout Mark's Gospel. (1:11; 9:7; 14:61-62; 15:39) It is Jesus' deity that gives him authority to call people to be his disciples. His authority is inherent and divinely delegated. Also, his authority is self-authenticating; his life demonstrates his authority.

**Authority by virtue of the power to transform (vv. 2-8).** Mark quoted Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3 in identifying John the Baptist as the Messiah's forerunner. In appearance and austere lifestyle, John was reminiscent of Elijah the prophet. John baptized people who confessed and repented of sin, but he pointed toward one greater than he who would baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

When I was growing up as one of five children, we were sometimes left in the care of our oldest sister. She was diminutive and soft-spoken and we pretty much dismissed her as

an authority figure. That is, until she uttered these words: "Just wait until Daddy comes home." We knew that while she was not big enough to control us, the one she represented was. Jesus' power to transform lives gives him authority to call people to be his disciples. This call is first a call to salvation that gives the believer a new life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Authority conferred by God's endorsement (vv. 9-11).** Jesus traveled from Nazareth in Galilee to the location on the Jordan River where John was baptizing. There John baptized him and Jesus received the Father's assurance of his love and blessing. In Mark 9:7, God repeated his affirmation of Jesus. The endorsement of Jesus' divine Sonship confirms his authority to call disciples. God's stamp of approval on Jesus means people must take Jesus' authority seriously.

**Authority reinforced by vic-**

**tory over temptation (12-13).** Immediately following Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit thrust him into the desert where Satan tempted him for 40 days. Some Bible scholars have said that until God identified Jesus as his beloved son, Satan did not know who Jesus was. However, Satan tried to have Jesus killed when he was but a baby through Herod's decree that all baby boys under two in Bethlehem be killed. Joseph, warned in a dream, took Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt until Herod died and then returned to Nazareth. Satan is not all knowing, ever-present, or all powerful. When the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, Satan began an immediate onslaught. Heavenly messengers attended to Jesus during this ordeal. His victory over temptation and his resulting sinless perfection reinforce his authority to call people to be his disciples.

*Plunkett is minister of music and adults at Clarksdale Church.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Ultimate confrontation

Mark 11:1-12:44

By Dee McDermitt

In Chapter 11, Mark begins the account of the Passion Week. These are the days in Jerusalem when Jesus must confront several authorities. Here he will deal with the fundamental question of life: who is the final authority? Is it God or man? We all must answer this question and the words of Jesus can be a great help. There is a story of a smart young lawyer who had been raised without the benefit of a Christian upbringing. Someone gave him a Bible which he decided to read through. As he was reading, he came to the account in Mark in which Jesus was questioned about the lawfulness of paying taxes to

Caesar. He could hardly wait to see what Jesus had to say. Upon reading it, he exclaimed, "That's the most amazing wisdom!"

**Righting a wrong (11:15-18a).** Jesus entered Jerusalem hailed as king and went to the temple for a preliminary inspection. In doing this he acts as one who has the authority to make such an inspection and rightly so. Since it was late, he went to Bethany to spend the night and returned the next morning. He came to find spiritual fruit just as he looked for natural fruit on the fig tree (v. 12-14) but found none. Instead he found evidence of hollow religious practices: the buying and selling of

animals for worship rituals and money changers who were there to exchange Greek or Roman coins for Jewish or Tyrian coins which were required for temple services. Jesus' righteous anger was aroused and he drove out the offenders. He defended his actions by quoting Isaiah 56:7. Only Mark includes "for all nations." The court of the Gentiles was the only place where the Gentiles could pray and worship but the Jews had hindered their worship by turning it into a raucous place of business. This showed irreverence for the temple, the worshipers and ultimately God himself. The real meaning of Jesus' actions and words were not lost on the chief priests and scribes so, fearing this, they began to plan to destroy him.

**Looking beyond the present (12:10-12).** While Jesus walked

in the temple again, he was confronted by an imposing delegation — the Jewish heads of state. The sternness in their voices as they question his authority shows that they have come to the end of their ropes. There will be no more fun and games. They no longer attack the disciples. They come straight at him with the ultimate question: who told you that you could do this? In this moment of pressure, Jesus examined their credentials. They are stumped by his wisdom, of course, and they reveal that they are actually opposed to God's authority and act out of the craftiness of men. In verses ten through twelve, Jesus sums it up by predicting his fate and theirs. It happened just as he said. As the resurrected Lord, he stood with all power and authority given to him. Forty years later, Jerusalem was captured and those human authorities were led into captivity.

**Firm but fair (12:13-17).** When the last question of his authority left them frustrated, they tried to catch him on a political charge. The Pharisees and Herodians were sent. These two groups were political enemies and they came together only because Jesus was a threat to them. Their hypocrisy was not concealed from Jesus. In the wonderful wisdom and way he had, he did not answer their question directly, but asked for a coin. (Obviously, he had none.) In his answer he showed that human authority is limited in scope. The government is ordained of God and must be honored, but there is one area that the government has no authority over. That is the human spirit. Certain things you have belong to the government, but other things belong to God. We must give those to God.

*McDermitt is a member of Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg.*

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

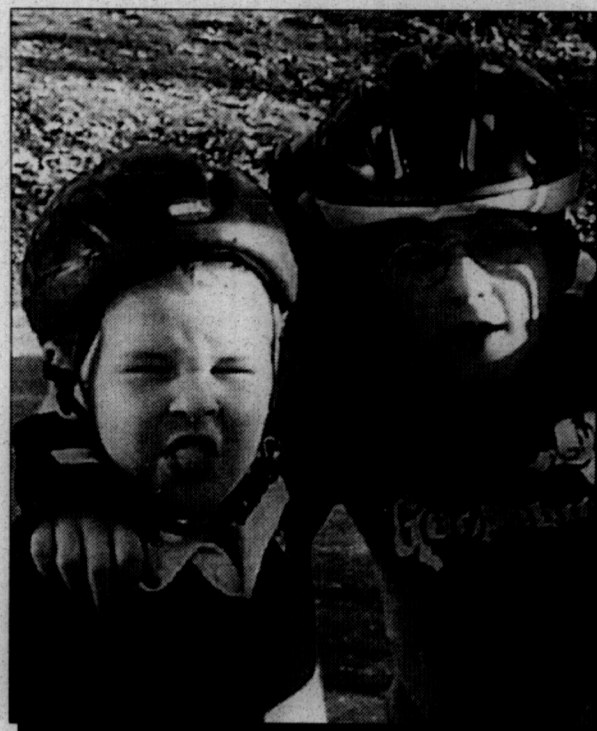
A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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These boys have enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather by getting outdoors and rollerblading.

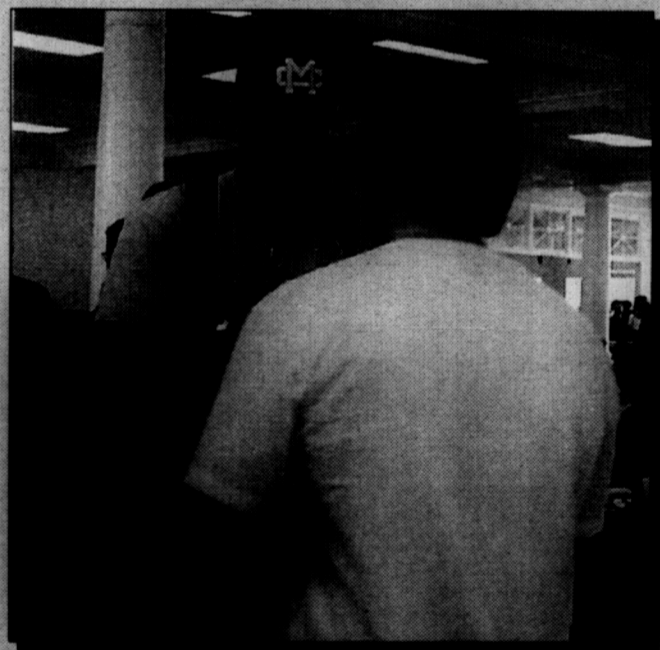
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## Volunteer opportunities abound at BCV



Mississippi College student Rob Price talks to Bill Maner, BCV counselor about volunteer opportunities at The Baptist Children's Village at the Service Fair at Mississippi College.



Michael Mote, activities coordinator, discusses with a student how easily one can become a mentor or a tutor for the BCV residents.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteer opportunities, please call Michael Mote at (601) 922-2242.

We have opportunities at all five BCV campuses.

# God doesn't offer quick fixes, Moore says

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — God doesn't offer drive-through windows where Christians can order up Spirit-filled lives and quick answers to pressing problems, said a popular women's Bible study leader.

"In our human nature, we always want the quick fix. Give me something in five minutes or we don't want to be fixed at all," said Beth Moore, a teacher and author of five in-depth Bible studies, a 10-week prayer journal and a collection of poetry and vignettes, all published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"If people really want the freedom that is available to them through Christ, they are going to have to walk with God, day in and day out, for all their lives," Moore said while in New Orleans taping her newest Bible study, "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life," scheduled for release in June.

Moore and a LifeWay video crew spent 10 days in December taping the newest of her interactive Bible studies which will include a leader kit, member book, leader's guide, and 10 video lessons. The lessons were taped as she taught the series at Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans.

Moore's latest message to women is about casting off strongholds or behaviors that interfere with living an "abundant life," which she describes as "a life with a whole lot of God."



BREAKING FREE — Beth Moore, center, speaks to two women who attended the video-taping of her fifth in-depth Bible study for women, "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life." The taping took place at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, La. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"A stronghold is anything in your life that has a strong hold on your life," she said. "It is something you realize is mastering you. You are out of control and mastered by something other than Christ. Christ masters us to set us free. Anything else masters us to keep us bound."

For Moore, fear and distrust were the behaviors that held her captive and kept her from leading an abundant life in Christ.

"Without getting too specific, I think I've been very open that I was the victim of some abuses as a child. So I came with all sorts of strongholds in my life.

"When there is a person that your family trusted, and they become untrustworthy and you're just a small child, then you grow up with a stronghold of mistrust," Moore said most adults grow up with childhood scars that manifest themselves in unhealthy external behaviors.

"Any kind of compulsive behavior, any kind of addictive behavior represents an internal need for control," she said. "Anything that continues to make us feel shame or like we are less than we are in Christ, anything that steals our dignity in Christ is a stronghold that we need to be free of."

Moore said people who "overdo or under-do anything" need to break free from their strongholds and experience freedom through Christ.

"I don't like to get too specific about the strongholds in my study

because I want women to ask themselves what theirs are. What is keeping you from just enjoying your life in Christ?"

Paradoxically, Moore said, Christians believe that living a Spirit-filled life is the exception, rather than the rule.

"It is our heritage to live a life that glorifies God, to enjoy his presence, to find satisfaction in him, and to have a real prayer life. Really, the odd times of our insecurities should be the exception.

"My study teaches that if you are not living the Spirit-filled, effective life, you've got something somewhere that is a hindrance to you. Now what is it?"

Moore, whose mother recently died after a lengthy illness, said she wants to be clear that enjoying life and enjoying life in Christ are different.

"There are periods in our lives that aren't enjoyable at all, but we can learn to enjoy the presence of Christ in our lives even during a very unenjoyable period of time."



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

My 10-year-old son is a video addict, and his interpersonal skills are almost zero. How can I get him off the couch and into social situations?

Children are motivated by sensory emotions. Your son feels safe in front of the television, and not as comfortable with relationships. This could be a personality issue. Some children are more comfortable with inanimate objects than they are in developing relationships with other people. The video is not the culprit; he is probably fearful of relationships. Try to put him in non-threatening situations with his peers. With what kind of children does he feel most comfortable? See that he has time with these children, but don't push him into situations in which he is not comfortable. As he gains experience in interpersonal relationships, encourage him to move into other areas in which he feels discomfort. Encourage his friends to come over and spend the night, or at least to play for a couple of hours. Plan the time with your son so he knows what to expect, and stay close in case difficulties arise. Affirm him when the visit is over, talk about what was learned in the process, and discuss what could be done differently next time. By walking with him through the process,

you let him know that he is not alone in life — and you have just passed on an example of the Lord as well.

My husband's ex-lover has moved to our small town and joined our church, with my husband's approval. I forgave his adultery, but this is too much. One of us has to go.

It is troubling that this situation has your husband's approval. Has he truly repented of his sin, or is he still playing with the situation? Neither of you can control this woman's life, but you and your husband can stand together. By his approval, however, he is saying that she is more important than you, which makes her still his mistress. Do you want to continue sharing your marriage with a third person? On the other hand, are you sure you mean it when you say, "One of us has to go?" If your husband chooses her, what will you do? Have you thought all of this through, and are you truly ready to make this choice? Another way of confronting him is to say, "If you still want her in your life, then go with her. I release you. I will not continue sharing my life, my bed with you." That puts it back in his court. You should not be the one to make this choice for him. Make him make the choice.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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RCM FOYWI YRGM  
WCXV BGZ, PVIOY BRUO  
BVEOY, RCM LGSMY VP  
XBO RGS BRUO COYXY;  
LW XBO YVC VP ZRC  
BRXB CVX KBOSO XV ERT  
BGY BORM.

EWDO CGCO: PGPXT-

OGQBX

Clue: P = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Five: Thirty-One.

## Beth Moore, prolific writer

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Beth Moore, Bible teacher and author of six Bible study series for women, said the topics of her studies have been given to her one at a time from God. LifeWay Christian Resources will release Moore's latest Bible study, "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life," in June 1999.

She said she begins "obsessing" on one subject she is drawn to during her travels or while studying the Bible. "Then all the sudden every direction I look, God is speaking to me about it. I'm simple-minded, so he just doesn't let me make a choice between three or four topics. I always know there is only one."

Since August 1995 when Moore's first Bible study was published, a half million copies of her books have been purchased and used in group and individual studies. In 1997-98 alone, four of her current studies sold a total of 260,000 copies.

Moore said she has heard some describe her as a preacher, but she doesn't take the description seriously. "First of all, I just laugh because I don't think they are serious. Then I say, 'Please, if you don't mind, change that 'p' to a 't.' The truth is, I'm eaten alive with discipleship. It is my burden and my passion. I know the Word transforms lives."

Moore's earlier Bible studies include: "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place," "A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David," "To Live Is Christ: The Life and Ministry of Paul," "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" and "Whispers of Hope," a 10-week prayer study.

Also, LifeWay's Broadman & Holman Publishers has released a collection of Moore's poetry and vignettes, "Things Pondered from the Heart of a Lesser Woman."